

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

at her most blessed end, to help us more afterwards than before."¹ In the following year, to his great dismay, he was made prior of Pontignano. " My sweet brother," he wrote to Neri, " I invite thee to have compassion upon me, and also to aid me with holy prayer, beseeching God to give me grace to correct my life and to be His true servant even unto the end, and that He may grant me to bear the weight that He has deigned to lay upon my shoulders, as shall be to His honour and my salvation. When I took the holy habit, I thanked God, and thought to sing with the Psalmist: *Lo, then> I would wander far off and remain in the wilderness* ; but Obedience, the bride that our holy Mamma gave me, wishes me, for my greater weal, to sing : */ was as a beast before 'Thee*. Therefore am I fain to begin again to glory in the Cross of Christ crucified, and to rejoice in the Cross, and to abide nowhere else save there."² In 1389, at the instance of Gian Galeazzo Visconti, Stefano was transferred to Milan, and made prior of the Carthusian convent of Our Lady and St. Ambrose. Here he was influential in keeping the Milanese despot faithful to the Urbanist obedience, and in furthering the interests of the Commune of Siena at his court. He was much concerned, too, in the founding of the great Certosa of Pavia, which Gian Galeazzo was erecting with such lavish magnificence, and of which Don Bartolommeo Serafini, the former prior of Gorgona, was the first superior.³ It is pleasant to fancy that we may see idealized portraits of Stefano and Bartolommeo among the white-robed Carthusians who are bearing their crosses after Christ in Ambrogio Borgognone's picture.

From Pavia, we find Stefano on one occasion coming on business of his order to Genoa, and there, *con sand ragionamenti di*

¹ *Lettere dei dlscepoli*, 21. Cf. Tromby, VII. p. 54 ; Earth. Senensis, *op.* «/., Lib. II. cap. 2. Stefano had previously been taken prisoner by a band of Breton mercenaries, and set free, without payment of ransom, by the intervention of Hawkwood—the second occasion upon which he had been delivered by calling upon Catherine's name.

² *Ibid.*, 25.

³ Barth. Senensis, *op. cit.*, Lib. II. cap. 13. Cf. Stefano's letter to Matteo Cenni, of July 27, 1391, *Lettere dei ducepoR*, 33.